



M E D I A R E L E A S E
STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 6, 2008

CONTACT: TAMMY HEISE
(615) 532-0929

VESTA CEDAR GLADE HIKE SLATED FOR JUNE 14

Nashville, Tenn. - The Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Natural Areas will host a guided hike at Vesta Cedar Glade State Natural Area in Wilson County near Lebanon on June 14. Participants should meet at 10 a.m. at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park office near Lebanon.

Andrea Shea Bishop will take hikers on an easy two-mile loop through the flat terrain of Vesta Cedar Glade in Cedars of Lebanon State Forest. This area is one of the state's premier sites for the endangered Tennessee coneflower. Many other rare plants grow in this unique cedar glade and grassy barrens ecosystem. Other cedar glade plants include Tennessee milk-vetch, southern prairie dock, purple prairie clover, Gattingers prairie clover, prairie tea, glade privet, fragrant sumac and native grasses.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the beauty of one of Tennessee's most biologically diverse state natural areas," Bishop said.

Participants should bring water and lunch, and they should wear appropriate footwear and dress in layers. Sunscreen and insect repellent are also recommended. Reservations are required for the guided hike and can be made by contacting Andrea Shea Bishop by phone at (615) 532-0431 or by e-mail at andrea.bishop@state.tn.us by June 12.

Vesta Cedar Glade is a 150-acre natural area in the southwestern corner of Cedars of Lebanon State Forest. Its flat landscape and exposed limestone outcroppings and sink holes are characteristic of the karst topography of the Middle Tennessee's Central Basin. Many wildflower varieties thrive in the shallow soils of the cedar glade, while the deeper soils of the barrens support perennial bunch grasses like little bluestem.

The hike at Vesta Cedar Glade is part of a series of monthly, guided field trips to Tennessee State Natural Areas offered by the department's Division of Natural Areas. Tennessee has 79 designated State Natural Areas throughout the state, covering approximately 110,000 acres of ecologically significant lands. More information about Tennessee's natural areas program, including a complete list of all natural areas and scheduled field trips, can be found at <http://tn.gov/environment/na/>.

###